Numb. 47.

# The EXAMINER.

From Thursday *June* 14, to Thursday *June* 21, 1711.

*Pauca tamen ſuberunt priſcæ veſtigia fraudis.*

I Hope my Countrymen will believe that I have a very good Occaſion to Congratulate them upon the Q——n's Speech: All the honeſt part muſt be of Opinion, that nothing ever proceeded from the Throne, more glorious for our Repreſentatives in Parliament, or more gracious and ſatisfactory to the Nation. Cou'd there, amidſt that awful Aſſembly, be any Heart untouch'd at the Voice of ſuch a Q——n? Recollecting Her Piety, the uprightneſs of Her Life, Her unwearied Prayers and Endeavours for the Proſperity of Her People; from whoſe Intereſts Hers were never divided.

Her M——y fill'd every loyal Breaſt with Joy, when with Her graceful Air, and elegant Manner of Delivery, She told Her Parliament, *The Pleaſure She took to ſee the performance of thoſe Promiſes they had made Her at the beginning of the Seſſions; their complying with Her Deſire to propagate the Service of God, in the building ſo many new Churches; enabling Her to carry on the War, making effectual Proviſion for paying thoſe heavy Debts, which were almoſt grown an inſupportable Burthen on the Publick; when our Enemies* every where *flatter'd themſelves, that Supplies for the Service of the Current Year, could not have been found.*

Could any thing be more grateful to true *Britiſh* Spirits, who had done their utmoſt towards retrieving our Diſorders, than to be applauded for diſappointing the Enemies of the Nation, *in all reſpects?* Not only by their raiſing greater Sums, than were ever granted to any Prince in one Seſſions, but for reſtoring *Publick Credit*; a Bleſſing ſo invaluable, and ſo much deſpair'd of by our Enemies, that they concluded it impoſſible for the Miniſtry and Parliament to extricate us out of thoſe amazing Difficulties, whereinto we had been plung'd. And truly, if we impartially conſider the Meaſures upon which the late Men in Power proceeded, we ſhall find it extremely difficult to give any Satisfactory account to Reaſon or Policy, for their notorious Depeculations; (if my Friend the *Medley* will give me leave to make uſe of that Word); unleſs, like ſome momentary Conquerors, they reſolved to waſte that Empire they could not keep.

I am very well aſſured that the former Miniſtry, after a long run of ill Husbandry, were often at their Wits-end (till Things grew riper for that Change they had projected) how to prevent, from breaking all at once upon the Publick, that Report, which they knew wou'd ruin their Deſigns. The whole Government ſubſiſted upon preſent Credit, tho' vaſt Sums were annually given to ſupport the War; which were ſo far from being applied that way, that every Year we were plung'd more and more in Debt: It is true, the Parliament Voted Subſidies, and the willing People chearfully paid them, in hopes, by an honourable Peace, they ſhould quickly ſee the end of their Miſeries and Taxes: Yet the Arrear to the Navy, *&c.* ran on, the Miniſtry put a good Face upon a decaying Conſtitution, they employ'd all their Arts to conceal the real Diſtreſs we were in; they procured that Mony ſhould be lent at 5 *per Cent.* whilſt the unhappy Creditors were forced to give from 20 to 40 *per Cent.* diſcompt, for every Farthing they receiv'd upon the Bills aſſign'd them by the Government. This they very well knew was ſuch ill Management, as could not long be conceal'd: They had ſeparately and prodigiouſly enrich'd themſelves; to preſerve their Wealth and Authority, they muſt invade the Conſtitution. As to their own Poſſeſſions, an *Act of Indemnity* had ſecur'd them: And for the reſt, they had little more to *riſque*, than whether they ſhould remain Opulent Subjects, tho' without any ſhare in the Power; or become Maſters, without Limitation.

*Avarice* is ever inſatiable! how then muſt it deſtroy, when it has the Wealth of a Nation to feed on? The Miſeries of the People, the Tears and Groans of poor Seamen and their Families, were not regarded by theſe Devourers; univerſal Frauds and Abuſes not only winked at, but incouraged: Trade not dying, but dead: Publick Credit, 'tis true, was ſtill alive; but ſubſiſted only upon ſtrong Cordials, in utter Ignorance of her approaching Diſſolution. Yet, no one ſtep was made by theſe *State*-Phyſicians, towards preventing her apparent Deceaſe; much leſs did they take any thought about curing the Malady they had occaſion'd: They were not ſo void of Reaſon as to be ignorant of the Condition they had reduc'd us to; they did know it, and ſtood provided of a *Remedy* to ſecure themſelves (which a little time would perfect to their Wiſh) and which all good Subjects muſt tremble to think on; a *Remedy* a thouſand times worſe than the Diſeaſe; where, inſtead of an *Indulgent, Lanful Q——n*, we muſt have referr'd to a *lawleſs Junto*, and to an *Arbitrary Cap——n Gen——l.*

But now, God be prais'd, our Fears are diſſipated; the Qu—— is *free*, and acts entirely according to Her own Judgment and Inclination: The Parliament acquieſces in whatever She requires: We have prov'd the happy Effects of their mutual Confidence; and, as Her Majeſty tells us from the Throne, *She ſhall look upon any Attempt to leſſen it, as a Step towards diſſolving Her Government.*

I could make many uſeful Reflections upon the preſent happy change of our Condition; the different State of Security, to our Conſtitution, wherein this Seſſions hath left us, from the Fears that poſſeſs'd us upon the ending of the laſt: The Dread and Apprehenſion the Majority of the Kingdom were then in, leaſt *That* Parliament ſhould ſit any more: The Longings and Impatiencies of the People, 'till Her Majeſty ſhall think fit, that *Theſe* may meet again.

Whilſt the ſinking Credit of the Nation hath been thus retriev'd, by the great Abilities and Induſtry of the preſent Miniſtry and Parliament; the *Convocation*, no leſs uſefully employed in the Cauſe of Piety, have drawn up a *Repreſentation of the preſent State of Religion, with regard to the late exceſſive Growth of Infidelity, Hereſy and Profaneneſs, unanimouſly agreed upon by a Joint Committee of both Houſes of the Province of* Canterbury; *and afterwards rejected by the Upper Houſe, but paſs'd in the Lower Houſe.*

I am ſorry theſe pious Labourers ſhould be baffled, in their Godly Endeavours, by their own Brethren: I have formerly, in two *Examiners*, touched upon the nature of this *Synod*, and their Diviſions, together with the Qu——'s Letter, and Deſire to reconcile all Differences and Diſputes; and hop'd to ſee the happy Effects of Her Exhortation. The *Inferior Clergy* have proceeded with a Spirit, truly Primitive; Their *Repreſentation* is writ with ſuch force of Eloquence and Argument, as muſt warm the coldeſt Heart. The narrow compaſs of this Paper will not permit me to enumerate all the Heads: "They trace the Deluge of *Impiety*, from that long and "unnatural Rebellion, which looſned all the Bands of "Diſcipline and Order; whence Hypocriſy and Enthu-"ſiaſm begat a diſregard for the very appearance of "Religion, and ended in a Spirit of downright Libertiniſm and Profaneneſs: Whence Adverſaries aroſe, "who openly ſcatter'd the Poiſon of *Arrian* and *Socinian* Hereſies; the Godhead of the Holy Spirit deny'd! "Myſteries exploded, as implying Contradictions, and "incapable of becoming Objects of aſſent to reaſonable Minds, *&c.* From theſe wicked Principles, wicked Practices have follow'd; frequency of Oaths and "Imprecations, all manner of Exceſs and Luxury, "Gaming upon the Lord's Day, *&c.*" Upon which I muſt beg leave to ſubjoin, that a certain late *Great Miniſter*, (in the good Company of Sir *James of the Peak*, and others of the ſame ſort) always made Play his *Sunday's* Entertainment.

It

In this *Repreſentation* we have a melancholly Proſpect of the State of our Religion; ſuch amazing Impieties can be equall'd by nothing but by thoſe Cities of old deſtroy'd by Fire from Heaven: Nor can that Deluge of Profaneneſs which over-runs the Nation, have any check from the Pious Endeavours of our Clergy, whilſt the Majority, on one part, continue to diſagree with the other, about the manner of putting Eſſentials in execution. Mean time the Cauſe of *Chriſtianity* muſt ſuffer, and our *Convocations* ſtill have the diſreputation of doing *nothing*. The *Repreſentation* which themſelves have tranſmitted to the Lower Houſe, is the ſame in very many of the Facts: As to the difference of Style and Spirit, I conceive that does not relate to the Service of Religion in general, any more than when I am exceſſive Cold, whether I would chooſe to be warm'd by a quicker or more languid Fire. Nor can I without Pleaſure take notice of one Paragraph, where they hope, *That eſpecial Care will be had of the Education of young People at the Univerſities, that Tutors may teach their Pupils the Principles of the Chriſtian Religion, and endeavour to make them ſerious in it, with a particular Eye to all ſuch who are deſign'd for Holy Orders.* Where ſuch Reverend Prelates are concerned, it were a ſort of Sacrilege to diſpute their Sincerity: After this, dare any Perſon imagine that their Doctrine and their Intentions can differ? Or, that ſo grave and venerable a Body, upon ſo ſolemn an Occaſion, would deal in *Irony*, or explain their meaning by Contraries? This muſt doubtleſs convince all ſuch, who have hitherto, upon a wrong Interpretation, preſumed to ſquare Opinions by theirs, and have with loud Exclamations ſhown their Abhorrence of an Univerſity-Education, as tainting our Youth with the Principles of *Loyalty* to Sovereigns, and an implicite Obedience to the Slaviſh Doctrines of the Church.

As this Admonition muſt ſatisfie ſuch who ſurmized that the Majority did not approve Educating Children in the Univerſity, ſo the unhappy ſtop that hath been put to the deſigned *Repreſentation*, hath given the Enemies of our Holy Religion (too numerous and politick a Party to be armed by our ſelves againſt our ſelves) a ſeeming occaſion to deride our Diviſions: And as if thoſe Reverend Proceedings were all but a Jeſt, theſe Ungodly Perſons are not afraid to be merry with the Conceit of the Upper Houſe's diſſenting from what Five of their own Members had before in Committee agreed to in the Lower; as tho' they were Acting a Religious Farce, call'd *A Convocation and no Convocation:* Nor will they believe our B——ps can have ſuch concurrent Fears of the growth of *Impiety*, when they do not proceed in the means that ſhould put an effectual ſtop to it, only for a *Form*; or, to uſe the Words of our Church-Adverſaries, 'till the laſt remaining Encroachment be made by the Upper Houſe upon the Privileges of the Lower.

Theſe Reflections are Arrows in the Heart of every honeſt Church-man; we would recriminate in vain, our Enemies flatter themſelves we lie too open for a Defence: We muſt therefore be content to wait with Patience and Prayer, for a Remedy to theſe Misfortunes, 'till the *Lord of the Harveſt*, in his good time, *ſhall ſeparate the Tares from the Wheat.*


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